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The Senate of The State of Texas



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Sept. 10, 2009

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood, Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to urge your support for an infrastructure project that is vitally important to Pecos County and the City of Fort Stockton and other South Texas border counties in great need of new jobs and economic development.

The project is designed to rehabilitate the state-owned South Orient rail line from railroad Milepost 721.52 in Tom Green County near San Angelo to just west of Fort Stockton in Pecos County. This project will consist mostly of cross tie replacements in critical areas and an extensive rail and tie project to replace antiquated rail with larger rail and the associated ballast and surfacing work needed to enable 25 mph track speeds.

This project would be funded by a \$21.6 million TIGER grant. Texas Pacifico Transportation Company, Ltd. has provided matching funds for prior Texas Department of Transportation rehabilitation projects in accordance with contract amendments that are executed once funding is secured. The Transportation Department anticipates a minimum of 20% match from Texas Pacifico — \$4,320,000 — which will be used for repairs to 111 timber railroad bridge structures and 18 timber-on-concrete railroad bridge structures in the project area.

The cost of developing plans, specifications, estimates, and environmental clearances for the project will be borne by TxDOT. All TIGER funds and local contributions will be used for actual construction of the project and construction management activities.

This project enjoys my enthusiastic support and that of the elected leaders and residents of the communities involved. I respectfully request that you give the TIGER application submitted by TxDOT and the other partners your full consideration. I believe it represents the kind of projects that President Obama and Congress had in mind when this program was created.



Thank you for your service to the nation and for taking the time to consider our request. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you need any further information on this project or if I can be of service in any other way.

